UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/23047
19 September 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 19 SEPTEMBER 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRALIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to attach a letter from the Prime Minister of Australia, The Honourable R. J. L. Hawke AC, on the situation in Yugoslavia.

I would be grateful if you could circulate this communication as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter WILENSKI

Annex

Letter dated 19 September 1991 from the Prime Minister of Australia addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to convey my Government's deep concern over the violence in Yugoslavia and to raise with you the importance of the United Nations addressing the situation there.

The Australian people, and in particular hundreds of thousands of Australians of Yugoslav origin, are witnessing the deterioration in that country with great concern.

Our concerns are for the welfare of all the people of Yugoslavia.

There are important issues to be resolved about the future shape of Yugoslavia's Republics, and in particular about the position of minorities within the Republics. But there can be no justification for resorting to force to settle these issues.

The level of violence and the number of casualties has escalated and all-out war now threatens to engulf Yugoslavia. A growing number of Yugoslavs are no longer able to enjoy the most basic human rights.

Constitutional order has broken down - it is already evident that the Yugoslav Federation is no longer functioning in accordance with its constitution and it is doubtful that the Federation will survive.

The situation now poses serious dangers to the peace and stability of the region.

The European Community has worked energetically to promote a peaceful resolution of the crisis, and prevent the all-out war which now threatens to engulf Yugoslavia and endanger the security of its neighbours. Australia respects the Europeans' efforts and their persistence in the face of adversity, and they have our full support and encouragement.

We are urging the European Community to continue their efforts, but the situation has now deteriorated to the point where the international community needs to reinforce the Europeans' efforts through the United Nations.

The Australian Government therefore believes that, with the situation still unresolved, the time has come for the United Nations to contribute to the search for a peaceful settlement.

By doing so it can fulfil the hopes which the world has increasingly placed in it in recent years.

I therefore urge you to lend the authority of your own office and that of the United Nations to the search for a resolution to the problems in Yugoslavia. As a first step I believe that the Security Council should consider the issue as a matter of urgency.

I would be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the Security Council and circulate it to all member States.

R. J. L. HAWKE